THINK ABOUT IT ... Match the Angel's names with what they do for us.

A -- Michael:	1 -- fire or light of God, enlightening our minds
B -- Gabriel:	2 -- like unto God, the leader of the Angels
C -- Raphael:	3 -- strength, power of God, announces mysteries of God
D -- **Uriel:**	4 -- the raising up to God
E -- Selaphiel:	5 -- prayer of God, prays to God for the people
F -- Jehudiel:	6 -- blessings of God, asks God's mercy for the people
G -- Barachiel:	7 -- glorifying of God, rewards our efforts to love God
H -- Jeremiel:	8 -- God's healing, curer of sickness

PRAY

Holy Michael Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Jermyn, Pennsylvania

The Synaxis of the Archangel Michael



"O, Holy Archangel Michael, protect us from physical and spiritual enemies."

Archangel Michael and the Hosts of Angels

On November 8, our Church celebrates the **Synaxis of the Chief of the Heavenly Hosts, Archangel Michael and the other Heavenly Bodiless Powers.**

The word "**Synaxis**" means an assembly or gathering. The angels are called **Heavenly** because they are with God in heaven. The word **"Host"** means that there are many of them. They are called **"Bodiless"** because they do not have bodies as human beings do; they are made of spirit. There are different kinds of Angels, and they all serve God.

ARCHANGELS:
*are messengers of great and wondrous tidings
* reveal prophecies and the mysteries of the faith
* enlighten people to know and understand the will of God
*spread faith in God among the people, illuminating their minds with the light of the Holy Gospel.

We know the names of the Archangels:

Michael: like unto God, the leader of the Angels

Gabriel: strength, power of God, announces mysteries of God

Raphael: God's healing, curer of sickness

Uriel: fire or light of God, enlightening our minds

Selaphiel: prayer of God, prays to God for the people

Jehudiel: glorifying of God, rewards our efforts to love God

Barachiel: blessings of God, asks God's mercy for the people

Jeremiel: the raising up to God

A Feastday was established in November, the **ninth month** after March (which was the month the year began in ancient times) since there are Nine Ranks of Angels.

The **eighth day** of the month was chosen because the Day of the Last Judgment is called the Eighth Day by the holy Fathers. After the end of this age (whish has 7 days each week in commemoration of the seven days of Creation) will come the Eighth Day, and then Jesus Christ "shall come in His Glory and all the holy Angels with Him" (Matthew 25:31).

God appointed the Holy Archangel Michael as their **Chief Commander.** When Lucifer (Satan, the devil) rebelled against God, it was Michael who cast him out of Heaven.

According to Church Tradition, he participated in many Old Testament events by **helping** the Israelites in all their misfortunes.

When Moses led the people out of Egypt, the Archangel Michael went ahead in a **pillar of fire** to guide them.

It was the Archangel Micahel who came to protect the **Three Holy Youths**, Ananias, Azarias and Misail (also called Shadrach, Mishak, and Abednigo) who were thrown into a firy furnace for refusing to worship an idol.

The Archangel Michael showed his power when he miraculously saved a young man, cast into the sea by robbers with a stone about his neck on the shores of **Mt. Athos**, where there are many Orthodox monasteries. This story is found in the book called the Athonite Paterikon.

He protected the **city of Novgorod** in Russia from an invasion. The invading army set fire to other cities in Russia, but when they came to Novgorod, the Holy Theotokos protected it. When the army came to the city of Kiev, they saw a stone church, over the doors of which the Archangel Michael had written: "By this we have forbidden you entry into Great Novgorod."

Protection of Orthodox cities by the **Theotokos, who we also call the Most Holy Queen of Heaven**, always involved her appearances with the Heavenly Hosts, under the leadership of the Archangel Michael.

Where-ever Orthodox people live, many monasteries, cathedrals, and churches are dedicated to the Chief Commander Michael.

We call on St. Michael for protection from invasion by enemies and from civil war, and for the defeat of all spiritual enemies (temptations that can cause us to sin.)

On icons, the Archangel Michael is sometimes seen trampling the devil underfoot. He carries a shield and a sword, which is sometimes pictured as a sword of fire.

Each person has a guardian angel, and every nation also receives its own guardian angel from God. When a church is consecrated, it also receives a guardian angel and that becomes the name of the church.